

# Miss AMERICA



**L**ATE AFTERNOON! MADELINE JOYCE SHOPPING IN THE CITY, MEETS WITH A MINOR ACCIDENT...

OH! MY WRIST BAND SNAPPED! I'D BETTER HURRY IF I WANT IT FIXED! STORES CLOSE ABOUT THIS TIME!



**A**S MADELINE HURRIES TOWARD A JEWELRY SHOP, A FIGURE DRESSED IN A CHAUFFEUR'S UNIFORM, FURTIVELY TAPS A SIGNAL....



**E**NTERING, MADELINE BUMPS INTO TWO HEAVILY VEILED FEMALE FIGURES HURRYING FROM THE STORE...



O-O! I BEG YOUR PARDON!



**M**ADELINE APPROACHES A CLERK WHO SEEMS TO BE DUSTING A SHOW CASE.

RATHER RUDE, THOSE TWO OLD LADIES! DIDN'T EVEN BOTHER TO ANSWER ME!

EXCUSE ME, SIR! BUT COULD YOU--



**S**UDDENLY, THE FIGURE SAGS AND TOPPLES UNDER THE SLIGHT TAP OF MADELINE'S FINGER...



**T**RUE REALIZATION OF TRAGEDY DAWNS ON THE BEWILDERED GIRL.

HE'S DEAD! AND SO ARE THE OTHERS IN THE STORE!



**S**UDDENLY...



**S**OMETIME LATER, MADELINE REGAINS HER SENSES!

SHE'S OKAY!  
AND VERY FORTUNATE  
THAT THE BLOW WAS  
A GLANCING ONE!

GOOD!  
NOW WE  
CAN FIND  
OUT WHAT  
HAPPENED!

TWO OLD LADIES  
WITH VEILS, YOU  
SAY? THAT CLINCHES  
IT! NOW WE  
CAN SOLVE THESE  
JEWEL HOLDUPS  
AND MURDERS!

YOU MEAN THIS  
ISN'T THE FIRST?  
AND YOU KNOW  
THOSE TWO OLD  
LADIES?

TWO HOLDUPS  
BEFORE THIS—  
SIX OTHER  
VICTIMS IN THE  
SAME SET-UP!

THE OLD LADIES ARE THE FAMOUS  
VARDEN SPINSTER SISTERS! QUEER OLD  
BIRDS WHOSE HOBBY IS RUMMAGING IN  
JEWELRY SHOPS! NEVER COULD ACT-  
UALLY CATCH THEM AT THE MURDER  
SCENE! BUT KNOW THEY WERE IN THE  
STORE SOMETIME PRIOR TO EACH  
CRIME!

POLICE LAB DI-  
AGNOSED DEATHS  
AS SOME KIND OF  
GAS THAT FREEZES THE  
VICTIM IN WHATEVER POS-  
ITION HE IS WHEN  
GAS IS INHALED!

VERY CLEVER!  
PEOPLE LOOKING  
INTO THE STORE  
WOULD NEVER  
DREAM  
A HOLD-  
UP WAS IN PROG-  
RESS!

CALL THE WESTCHESTER  
PRECINCT! TELL 'EM TO  
SEND A COUPLA MEN  
OUT TO THE VARDEN ES-  
TATE TO  
PICK UP  
THE TWO  
SISTERS!

HMN?  
WESTCHESTER IS A  
LONG WAY  
FROM  
HERE!

**W**ATCHING HER CHANCE, MADELINE JOYCE SLIPS OUT OF THE STORE, INTO THE BUILDING AND TO THE ROOF! A MOMENT LATER, HER FAMOUS COUNTERPART IS ZOOMING INTO THE AIR, WITH A DEFINITE PLAN IN MIND.

DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I WAS 'OUT' FROM THAT BLOW! I MAY CATCH THEM BEFORE THEY REACH HOME OR CAN GET RID OF THE LOOT!



**U**SING HER TREMENDOUS SPEED, MISS AMERICA ZOOMS OVER AND OUT OF THE CITY, HER EYES SEARCHING THE ROADS LEADING TO THE VARDEN ESTATES...

NO SIGN OF THE LONG BLACK CAR THE POLICE DESCRIBED! I'LL HAVE A LOOK IN THE GARAGE FIRST! MAYBE THEY DIDN'T GET BACK YET!



THAT'S THE CAR! MUST'VE BEEN OUT LONGER THAN I THOUGHT! WONDER WHERE I SAW THAT CHAUFFEUR BEFORE?



**M**ISS AMERICA QUICKLY LOCATES THE SITTING ROOM OF THE VARDEN SISTERS IN THE RAMBLING OLD MANSION...

PLAYING POSSUM, EH? HERE'S WHERE TWO OLD GIRLS GET A RUDE AWAKENING!



GRACIOUS WE OVER-SLEPT AGAIN!

RATHER LONG NAP, JUDGING FROM THE TIME!

DEAR ME! IS IT THAT LATE?

I DO DECLARE! THE FAMOUS MISS AMERICA! EXCUSE US - WE ARE HAVING OUR USUAL AFTER-LUNCH NAP!

HOW NICE TO HAVE SUCH A DISTINGUISHED GUEST!



YOU'RE NOT GOING TO DENY BUMPING ME, IN GORHAM'S JEWELRY STORE!

BUMPING YOU? DID WE, SISTER?

WE WERE IN GORHAM'S THIS MORNING, BUT I DON'T RECALL!

THIS MORNING? YOU MEAN THIS AFTERNOON! AT FIVE TO BE EXACT!

OH! YOU MUST BE MISTAKEN! IT WAS THIS MORNING!

I'LL RING FOR THOMAS! HE'LL KNOW!

**S**UDDENLY, THE ALERT MIND OF MISS AMERICA, CLICKS INTO HIGH GEAR AS HER EYES FALL UPON AN OLD FASHIONED BAG.

YES! OF COURSE, MISS ABIGAIL!

IT WAS THIS MORNING! NOW I REMEMBER! THAT NICE MR. PETERS SOLD US THAT DARLING SILVER CAKE FORK! WHERE IS IT? I HAD IT--

THAT HANDBAG?

NOW I KNOW WHERE I SAW HIM! IN THE GORHAM DOORWAY!

THOMAS? WASN'T IT THIS MORNING YOU DROVE US TO GORHAM'S?

TO YOUR GARAGE TO CHECK THAT BLACK LIMOUSINE! SOMETHING I SHOULD'VE THOUGHT OF SOONER!

MY WORD!

GOOD GRIEF! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

IS THAT THE BAG YOU CARRIED THIS MORNING AT GORHAM'S?

OF COURSE! WE BOTH HAVE ONE JUST LIKE IT!

WHY--  
WHY--  
YES!

FOR A WHILE I THOUGHT THOSE TWO OLD DEARS WERE PUTTING ON AN ACT! UNTIL I SAW THEIR BAGS, WHICH AREN'T THE ONES THE VARDEN SISTERS CARRIED WHEN THEY BUMPED ME!



I THOUGHT SO! THIS CAR HAS BEEN USED! THE HOOD IS STILL WARM! SOUNDS AS IF SOMEONE'S BUSY UP-STAIRS!



MEANWHILE IN THE ROOMS OVER THE GARAGE...

YOU, AGNES! GET THE HATS AND COATS BACK IN THE CLOSET! AND YOU HIDE ALL THE CHEMICAL JUNK!



I'LL HIDE THIS! WE'RE SUNK IF MISS AMERICA FINDS ANY OF THESE THINGS HERE! WHAT THE--?



DID I HEAR MY NAME?

I'LL NEED THIS STUFF AS EVIDENCE AGAINST YOU MURDERING SNAKES!



OH-OH! DON'T BE IMPATIENT! I'LL BE RIGHT WITH YOU!



THIS SHOULD SPOIL YOUR AIM LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO STOP AGNES, WHO SEEMS ANXIOUS TO DESERT OUR LITTLE GATHERING!



JUST A PASSING GREETING, WHILE I COLLAR THE BRAIN OF THIS MURDER OUTFIT!

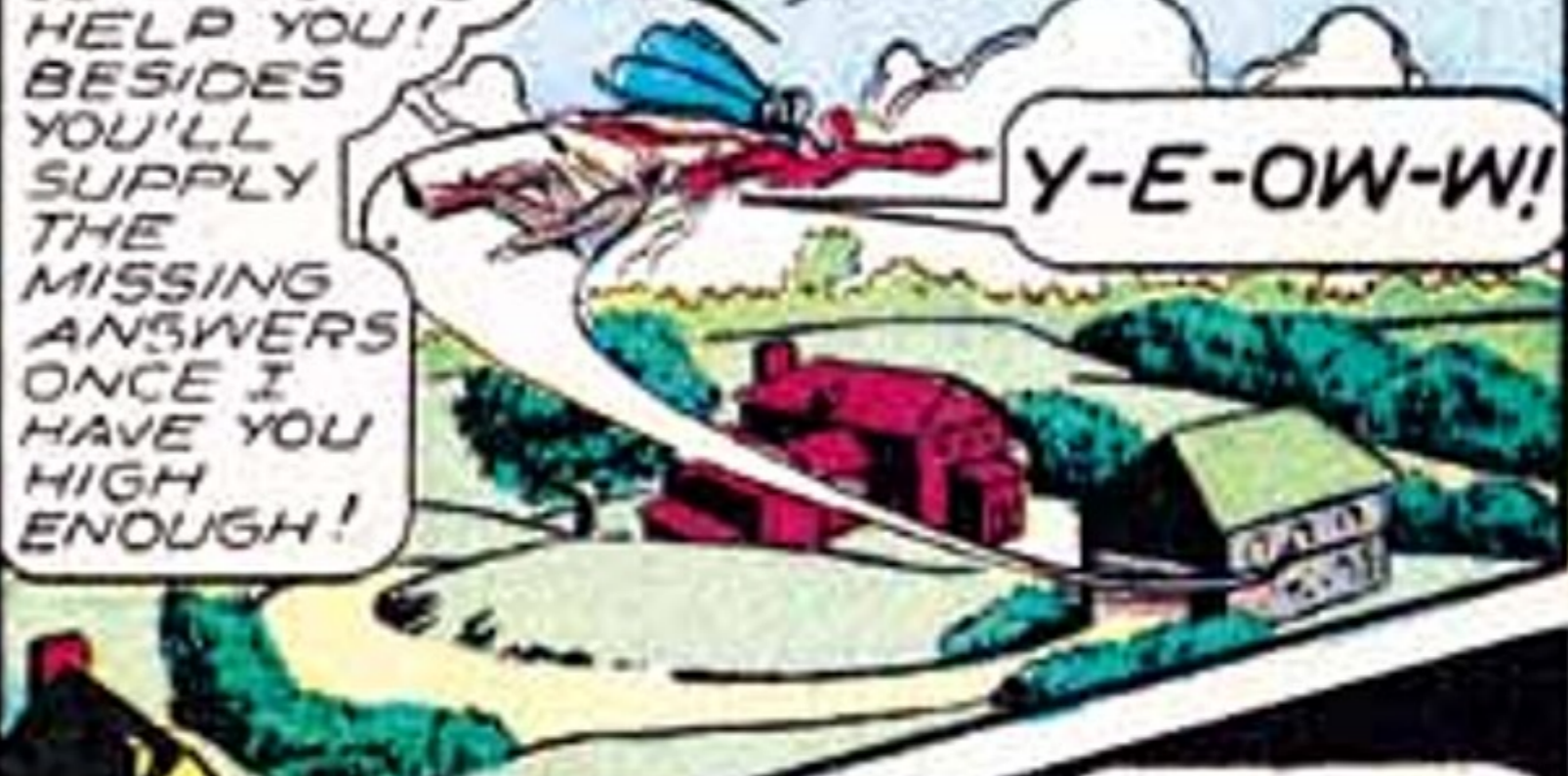


YOU SEEM - ED ANXIOUS TO GET OUT - SO I'LL HELP YOU! BESIDES YOU'LL SUPPLY THE MISSING ANSWERS ONCE I HAVE YOU HIGH ENOUGH!



SORRY, SISTER! HATE TO DO THIS, BUT YOU INVITED IT!

Y-E-OW-W!



ONCE THE SISTERS ARE BACK HOME, THEY ARE SERVED DRUGGED TEA! THE BUTLER AND MAID, DRESSED AS SISTERS, HURRY BACK TO THE STORE! TIMING THEIR ARRIVAL WITH THE HOUR THEY KNOW THE GAS CAPSULE HAS MELTED AND RELEASED THE DEADLY GAS!

YEAH! BUT WHY WEREN'T THEY KILLED BY THE GAS?

THE ANSWER TO THAT IS --- THOSE SMALL MASKS ATTACHED UNDER THE VEILS OF THE TWO KILLERS WHO POSED AS TWO DEAR INNOCENT OLD SISTERS!

LATER...

SLICEST SET-UP IN ALL MY EXPERIENCE! CHAUFFEUR CARRIES DEADLY GAS UNDER AUTO ROBE, WHILE ACCOMPANYING THE REAL SISTERS ON THEIR TRIPS!



THE END